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LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the text of a press statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha (issued on 29 December 1992), in response to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of South Africa (S/25004 of 22 December 1992).

I should be grateful if the present letter and annexure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha on the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the Security Council concerning South Africa on 29 December 1992

The Minister of Foreign Affairs takes note of the Secretary-General's Report on the question of South Africa as submitted to the Security Council on 23 December 1992 and the observations contained in it.

The South African Government welcomes the Report's guarded optimism. This is also the feeling of the Government at it enters the New Year. The Secretary-General's call on all political leaders to actively discourage violence on the part of their supporters and to take part in the planned meeting of the signatories to the National Peace Accord is important. The South African Government undertakes to carry out its share of this responsibility, and as its record shows, has done everything which could reasonably be expected of it to curb the violence. Recent events prove that the Government continues to be committed to this objective. The South African Government likewise notes the Secretary-General's support for the principle of inclusiveness for achieving the transition to democratic rule through free elections and new constitutional arrangements. This is also the position of the Government. I am pleased that the Secretary-General has given due recognition to the work of the Goldstone Commission. It is important that all parties cooperate fully with the Commission. The question of illegal weaponry that is smuggled into South Africa from neighbouring States remains a matter of grave concern. The South African Government urges Governments to take note of the reference in the Report that Judge Goldstone would welcome assistance from the international community, and the United Nations in particular, in order to secure the cooperation of Governments which serve as hosts to training camps and bases for armed formations operating in South Africa.

As regards the Secretary-General's comments on the status of Battalions 31, 32 and "Koevoet", the question of hostels and the question of dangerous weapons, it would seem that the Secretary-General is not yet fully aware of all relative aspects which make these problems difficult to resolve overnight. The South African Government is prepared to elucidate these matters further with representatives of the Secretary-General.

The South African Government notes the concern expressed by the Secretary-General over violence and intimidation directed against women, and trusts that all such violations will also be brought to the attention of the Goldstone Commission. The Government shares the aspirations of the Secretary-General concerning democratic parity for women in South Africa, and already signalled its intentions in this regard when the State President announced on 17 August 1992 that the Government had decided to sign three major international conventions relating to women and women's rights, and to accede to one other. Included amongst them is the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.